



SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT OF PERRY COUNTY

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**Meetings the First
Monday Night
of Each Month**

1003 North Main

547-4077

Extension 3



OUR SOIL ★ OUR STRENGTH

NEWSLETTER

Perryville, MO 63775

JANUARY 2012

Vol. 44, No. 1

DISTRICT STAFF

Karen Lukefahr,
District Manager
LaVern Taylor,
District Technician

NRCS STAFF

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District Conservationist
Dana Seibel,
Resource Conservationist

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ATTENTION: THE COST-SHARE SIGN-UP

The Perry County Soil and Water Conservation District will be having their cost-share sign-up period from February 1 – 29, 2012. This sign-up will be for practices that landowners wish to complete after July 1, 2012. There is a slight change this year. At the time of sign-up you will need to pick the conservation concern you would like to do. There are 3 choices; Sensitive Areas (sinkhole improvement and sinkhole treatment – see enclosed article), Sheet and Rill/Gully Erosion (terraces, critical area treatments, diversions, terraces, ponds, structures and waterways) and Drainage Water Management (see enclosed news article).

Landowners can come into the office anytime during business hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) during the month of February. At this time you will draw a number at random from the hat. Whatever that number is will be the number you are on the list. For example, if you draw number "30" then you will be listed as that. If you draw "1" then you will be the first to get your practices completed. We will work our way down the list until all funds have been exhausted. You must be an owner or operator to draw a number.

Landowners are still not eligible to receive cost-share in any 2 consecutive years. For example, landowners that received a cost-share payment this fiscal year (July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012) will not be eligible to receive cost share in fiscal year 2013. These landowners will be eligible again in fiscal 2014. A landowner will be able to receive up to \$8,500.00 for fiscal year 2013.

Be sure to mark your calendar to sign-up anytime between February 1 – 29. If you have the need for an erosion control practice, this year may be the year to get it completed. Remember, erosion control does not cost – it pays. If you have any questions, just call 547-4077 (ext 3) or come by the office at 1003 North Main in Perryville.

2012 ANNUAL MEETING DECISION

A hard decision has been made regarding the Perry County Soil and Water Conservation District Annual Meeting. Increased costs associated with annual meeting costs and decreased state funding required the Soil and Water District Board to take a closer look at the practicality of having an annual meeting. The original purpose of the annual meeting was to promote the district and after 40+ years of annual meetings, the board feels that goal has been achieved. Therefore, they decided to not have an annual meeting in March 2012. Discussion was held about the future possibility of having a biannual meeting, an "open house" or "field days." Continue to watch our newsletter for future soil and water district events.

New District Cost-Share Practice Available - Drainage Water Management

The Perry County Soil and Water Conservation District received a limited amount of FY2013 funds for a new practice called Drainage Water Management. Benefits of a Drainage Water Management System are: 1) improved drainage (more timely planting in spring) 2) holding existing water or adding water for irrigation during the growing season and 3) improved nutrient utilization. The primary purpose is not drainage, but improved nutrient uptake and therefore, improved water quality.

Main practice details include: Field must have cropping history 3 out of last 5 years. Land will have to be graded and no cost-share is provided for grading. Tiles (4" laterals, 6-8" mains) are usually installed at a 30' spacing and a water control box is required to regulate the water table. Tiling is capped at \$262.50 /acre, which is approximately ½ of the cost of tiling. The Perry County cost-share cap of \$8,500/landowner every other year limits this practice to 30 acres of tiling. Nutrient and Pest Management is required for the two years following tiling installation.

Please call or stop by the SWCD office with questions and make sure to sign-up during the month of February if you are interested.

New Cost-Share Practice Available

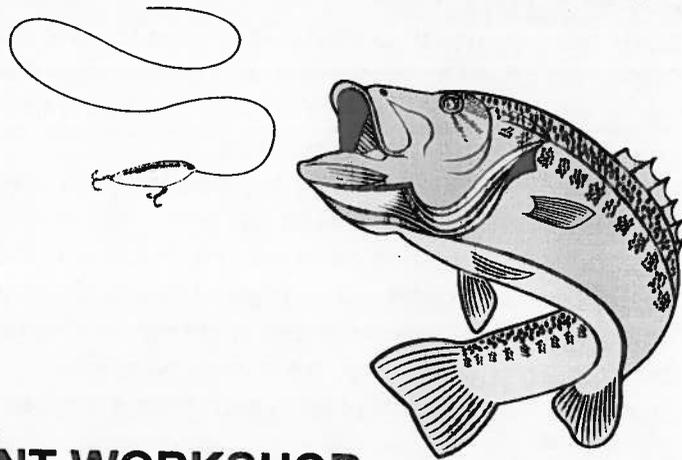
The Sinkhole Treatment (N725) practice is now available for sinkholes in grazed pastures. This practice allows landowners to construct an exclusion fence around sinkholes to prevent cattle/calves from becoming trapped in the bottom of the sinkhole while still providing shade. This practice does not have an erosion calculation so sinkholes that do not have enough erosion to qualify for a vertical drain will qualify for the Sinkhole Treatment. The landowner will receive a one-time, out of production incentive payment of \$300/acre with a maximum of \$1,200 for 4 acres. In addition, cost-share funds are used to cover 75% of the state average cost for either 4 strand barb wire or 2 strand high tensile electric fencing. This practice will help landowners protect their investments by preventing potential loss of cattle/calves, reduce soil erosion caused by cattle climbing in and around sinkholes, and improve groundwater quality by preventing bacterial, nutrient, and sediment contaminants from reaching groundwater and drinking water sources. Feel free to call or come by the office if you have questions concerning this new practice.

Changes for Vertical Drain Sign-up

To qualify for new vertical drain cost-share assistance on a farm, landowners will need to have all previously installed vertical drains adequately maintained. All vertical drains are required to be checked prior to assessing new sinkholes for cost-share qualification. Should vertical drains be found not being maintained, that farm number will not get cost-share funds for that fiscal year. If you are planning on drawing a number for vertical drains, double check your existing pipes for maintenance and make repairs, as needed, so you will qualify for cost-share funds. If you have questions concerning this new policy or want us to check your vertical drains, feel free to call or come by the office.

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION NEWS RELEASE

Prepared By: Salvador Mondragon
Fisheries Management Biologist
2302 County Park Drive
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
(573) 290-5730



POND MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

Why aren't there big bass in my pond? Do I need to treat aquatic vegetation? What types of fish are best to stock in a pond? How many fish can you harvest from a pond each year?

To help answer these and other commonly asked questions, the Missouri Department of Conservation is sponsoring a Pond Management Workshop. The workshop will be held on Thursday March 15, 2012 at the Cape Girardeau Nature Center in Cape County Park. The workshop will be held from 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Topics to be covered include pond site selection, pond construction, watershed management, pond ecology, stocking, balanced and un-balanced fish populations, harvest, aquatic vegetation control, fish parasites and other topics. There will also be ample time for individual questions.

There is no fee to attend the workshop; however pre-registration is required. For more information and to pre-register for the workshop, contact the Missouri Department of Conservation at (573) 290-5218.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

The Perry Soil and Water Conservation are proud to announce that Stephen Huber received the Distinguished Service Award in December at the Winter Training Conference at Tan-Tar-A. Steve was presented this award by Steve Radcliff, President of the Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. This Award is presented to an individual who has shown dedicated service to the soil and water conservation program. Steve has served on our local board for almost 40 years. He is also active at the area and state level by serving as Area Director for the Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts for 20 years.



Other Perry SWCD supporters in attendance for this presentation were: Judy Huber, Mr. & Mrs. Willis Koenig, Frank Wideman, Karen Lukefahr and LaVern Taylor.

Thank you Steve for your continued commitment to soil and water conservation in

Cover Crop Tips

- **EQIP has payments available per acre to try cover crops**
- Designate a field to experiment with cover crops (20-40 acres)
- Use shorter season varieties of Corn/Soybeans to maximize cover crop benefits
- Leave residue to preserve moisture
- Plan early (find seed in June) and select variety for your area
- Plant early and shallow (1/4 to 1/2)
- 20 pounds of N applied with cover crop aids in establishment
- Pasture seeding dates – good rule of thumb (2-3 weeks later usually OK)
- Be able to control when needed in spring (ATV sprayer, if needed) and use additives (AMS or other)
- Extreme years show most cover crop benefit
- Easiest to try – Cereal rye after corn before soybeans, (some increase in soybean yields)

Hairy vetch (Groff, Madison, Winter, Pennington, Kaup)

Good option before corn
Don't use blue/purple/common - not winter hardy!
Provides 100+ pounds Nitrogen for following corn crop
Increase in corn yields
Drive over and plant into
Plant corn 1" deep (due to cooler soil conditions)
Easy to control in the spring with 2,4-D
Decomposes in less than 30 days

Crimson Clover (AU Robbins, AU Sunrise, Dixie)

Winter annual – excellent growth
Good Nitrogen provider (up to 100#/ac usable N)
Kill mid-April (Late April/early May will bloom and die)
Doesn't like wet fields
Don't mix with ryegrass

Oilseed Radish (Adios, Arena, Tillage)

Small root (fall planting = carrot size)
Easy to establish
Works best in rows
Doesn't like acid soil types
Dies at 25 degrees
Decomposes quickly, no root to deal with in spring
Increases soil tilth and organic matter
Works well mixed with oats or cereal rye
Best results planted early (earlier planting = larger root)

Oats (Bates, Webster)

Establish fast
Good erosion control
Picks up Nitrogen
Reduces winter annuals
Cheap to plant
Easy to plant into in spring

Cereal Rye (Aroostock, Rymin, Daold)

Easy to establish, can usually broadcast
Easy to control in spring
Easy to plant into
Captures N (kill end of March to get N release)
Can be grazed/harvested for hay
Good to break up surface compaction
Good weed control
-winter annuals/marestail/smartweed/ragweed
Be careful if used before corn (can stunt corn)
-esp. cool, wet conditions unless good corn fertility
Gets big fast in April,
-can severely dry out soil if not controlled early enough

Annual Ryegrass (King, Bounty, Jackson)

(Marshall & Bruiser are good forage varieties)
Kill vegetative state, easily decomposes
Provides some weed control
Works in front of corn or soybeans
Easy to establish – broadcast
Good root mass,
Adds organic matter and soil tilth
Reasonable cost
Likes wet soils
Collects N in fall and winter
September seeding works best
Secondary buds allow regrowth,
-if not good control in spring, can be a problem
Easier to kill when small (April – Vegetative stage)
Plan on two herbicide applications

Contact the NRCS office for more information about cover crop usage and funding availability.

\$\$ NRCS Conservation Programs and Initiatives \$\$

Apply by **Friday, February 3, 2012** for the following major conservation programs and initiatives:

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)
- On-Farm Energy Initiative
- Organic Initiative
- Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative

Program and Initiative Overviews

Environmental Quality Incentives Program: EQIP provides financial and technical assistance to install and implement structural and management conservation practices on agricultural land.

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program: WHIP provides financial and technical assistance on private agricultural land, nonindustrial private forest land and Indian land to assist eligible producers establish and manage fish and wildlife habitat.

On-Farm Energy Initiative: NRCS and producers develop Agricultural Energy Management Plans (AgEMP) or farm energy audits that assess energy consumption on an operation. NRCS then uses audit data to develop energy conservation recommendations. Each AgEMP has a landscape component that assesses equipment and farming processes and a farm headquarters component that assesses power usage and efficiencies in livestock buildings, grain handling operations, and similar facilities to support the farm operation.

Organic Initiative: NRCS helps certified organic growers and producers working to achieve organic certification install conservation practices for organic production.

Seasonal High Tunnel Pilot Initiative: NRCS helps producers plan and implement the steel-framed, polyethylene-covered structures that extend growing seasons in an environmentally safe manner. High tunnel benefits include better plant and soil quality, fewer nutrients and pesticides in the environment, and better air quality due to fewer vehicles being needed to transport crops.

Contact the Perry County NRCS office at 1003 N Main in Perryville (Phone: 573-547-4077, Ext 3) **before Friday, February 3, 2012** to apply or for more information on the above programs.

2 - GREAT PLAINS NO-TILL DRILL

10 ft. - 7 1/2 inch spacing

(will do soybeans, milo, wheat, alfalfa, clover, fescue, orchard grass)

\$8.50 AN ACRE

(\$100.00 Minimum Charge)

OR

7 FT. GREAT PLAINS NO-TILL DRILL

with warm-season grass box

\$8.50 AN ACRE

(\$35.00 Minimum Charge)

FINN MULCHER

NEW - TAILGATE MULCHER

Trailer mounted, ideal for yards, conservation practices and road cuts.

\$75.00 - 1/2 Day • \$100.00 - 1 Day

To schedule call Karen at
Perry County Soil & Water Conservation District
547-4077

CONSERVATION COMPLIANCE IS STILL REQUIRED!

When considering tillage operations and/or crop rotation, please keep in mind that conservation compliance is required to receive USDA benefits. NRCS is required to complete annual, spring compliance status reviews on tracts randomly selected by the national office. The purpose of these reviews is to determine if the conservation provisions of the Farm Bill are being followed on highly erodible (HEL) and wetland (WET) designated farm tracts.

Farms with tracts found to be in non-compliance with the provisions are subject to revocation of certain USDA benefits in the crop year of the non-compliance violations, and for any future years until the USDA participant has fully applied and maintained, and/or restored the areas or tracts where the violations had been found.

PERRY COUNTY
SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1003 North Main St.
Perryville, MO 63775
(RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED)



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